

The Taj? The old Ritz? Now it's The Newbury. Take a look inside.



The historic property at the corner of Newbury and Arlington streets in Boston's Back Bay has been known by a few different names over the years. It opened in 1927 as among the first Ritz-Carlton hotels in the U.S. before its rebranding to the Taj in early 2007.

Now, after an extensive renovation by Highgate and a consortium of other partners, the luxury historic hotel is debuting as The Newbury Boston.

“As the stewards of this extraordinary hotel, we are thrilled to introduce The Newbury to Boston,” said [Mahmood Khimji](#), managing principal and co-founder of Highgate, in a statement. “We have been singularly focused on honoring the timeless and rich history of the property while incorporating new elements of modern luxury. Thoughtful guest touches complement gracious and luxurious service, which has been a hallmark of the property for nearly a century.”

Features of the newly refurbished property include 16,000 square feet of event space, a new entry plaza on Newbury Street and a redesign for the 286 hotel rooms by Champalimaud Design. [Jeffrey Beers](#), president of acclaimed interior architecture and design firm [Jeffrey Beers](#) International, designed the hotel's public spaces.

Major Food Group is helming the food and beverage program at the hotel, with offerings including Contessa, a 4,000-square-foot glass-enclosed rooftop restaurant, along with The Street Bar and a guest lounge dubbed The Library.

[Mario Carbone](#), founder of the New York-based Major Food Group, said opening the restaurants has been a "gift" following the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It's the gift after the curse," Carbone said. "Now the gift is that everything is opening back up, we can open back up with it, and ride the wave of the positive momentum."

Contessa was designed in the style of a grand trattoria found in luxury hotels in Northern Italy, Carbone said.

"We wanted to make sure that we revived a sort of elegance of this hotel. It is a grand hotel. It is the grand dame of Boston," he said. Contessa will be staffed by at least 100 people, Carbone said. Meanwhile, at the rest of The Newbury, some 170 associates have come onboard, said Managing Director [Carlos Bueno](#). Bueno has been involved with the project since 2016, and says staffing will ramp up to between 275 and 300 associates. Many of the staffers stayed onboard during the multi-year renovation process, Bueno said.

"I am just grateful and humbled to work at a place where associates chose to stay with us throughout the entire process," he said. "It is just a wonderful, wonderful feeling. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to look at your associates, that they believed in you, that believed in this project, and now they're back."